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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,694	07/28/2003	Takayuki Enomoto	1-16281	5179

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EXAMINER

BARFIELD, ANTHONY DERRELL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3636

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/628,694

Applicant(s)

ENOMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Anthony D Barfield

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-8,11,15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gagnon.

Gagnon shows a vehicle seat, comprising- a seat frame (16) ; a spring assembly (19) supported by the seat frame; and an upholstery assembly (14) covering at least part of the seat frame and spring assembly; said spring assembly including a central support member (25) adapted to support at least most of a load of a vehicle occupant seated in said seat, a plurality of spring members supporting the central support member relative to the seat frame, and a plurality of displacement sensors (20) each for detecting a displacement of a selected point of said central support member relative to said seat frame. The sensors would inherently identify a load distribution in the fore and aft or lateral directions, as the sensors are set to read a load from an occupant, which is then incorporated within a CPU program (see Fig. 11).

3. Claims 1-8,11-12,15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Enomoto et al JP 279399. Enomoto et al. shows a vehicle seat, comprising a seat frame (5) ; a spring assembly (6) supported by the seat frame; and an upholstery assembly (3) covering at least part of the seat frame and spring assembly; said spring assembly including a central support member (4) adapted to support at least most of a load of a vehicle occupant seated in said seat, a plurality of spring members supporting the central support member relative to the seat frame, and

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a plurality of displacement sensors (8) each for detecting a displacement of a selected point of said central support member relative to said seat frame. The sensors are incorporated within the spring assembly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gagnon.

Gagnon shows all of the teachings of the claimed invention except the use of grid formed from wavy wires or a combination of wavy wires and straight wires. It would have been an obvious

matter of design choice to modify the grid with either wavy wires or a combination of wavy and straight wires since applicant has not disclosed that wavy wires or a combination of wavy and straight wires solves any stated problem and it appears that the straight wires, as taught by Gagnon would perform equally well.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 13-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

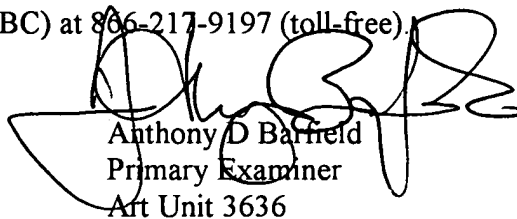
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Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Reference No. EPO 0930032 shows features of the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony D Barfield whose telephone number is 703-308-2158. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Anthony D Barfield
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3636

adb
September 19, 2004